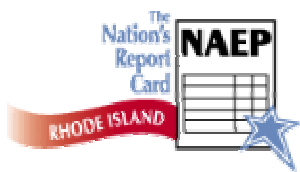




The Nation's Report Card: 2002 Writing Release for Rhode Island

July, 2003



Revised July, 2003

2002 Fourth and Eighth Grade Writing Results

Overall Writing Results for Rhode Island's Fourth Grade Students

- The average scale score for fourth grade students in Rhode Island was 157 out of a possible 300.
- Rhode Island's average score was four scale score points higher than the nation (153).
- The percentage of fourth grade students in Rhode Island at or above the NAEP *Proficient* is 30%. This is significantly higher than the nation (27%)
- Students' average scale scores in Rhode Island were higher than those in 26 jurisdictions, not significantly different than those in 17 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 4 jurisdictions.

Average Fourth Grade Scale Scores in the New England States

Nation	153
Rhode Island	157
Connecticut	174
Maine	158
Massachusetts	170
Vermont	158

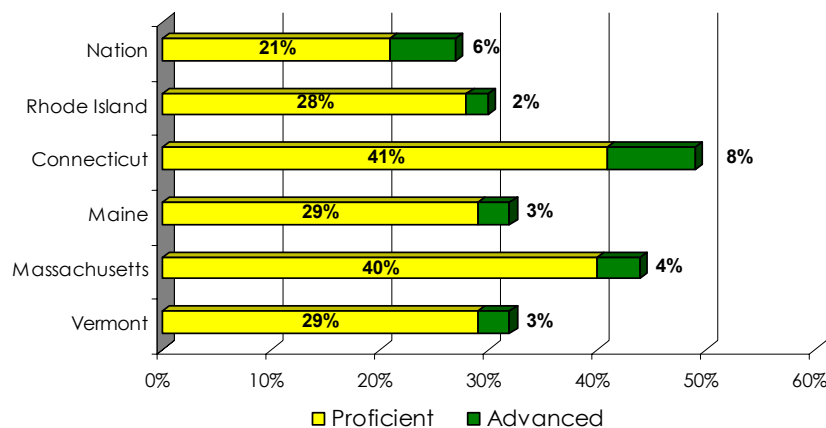
Notes:

- The number of Rhode Island schools that participated in the 2002 Writing assessment was 113.
- The number of fourth grade students assessed in Rhode Island was 3,467.
- 2002 was the first year that the NAEP writing assessment was administered to fourth grade students at the state level. It was administered only at the national level to fourth grade students in 1998.
- All charts showing gaps between subgroups and/or New England states reflect the differences found in average scale scores.
- New Hampshire did not participate in the 1998 or 2002 NAEP assessment cycles so it is not reflected in any of the charts showing New England states' data.
- All bar charts showing percent of students at or above the NAEP *Proficient* Achievement Level are shown on a 0 – 60% scale.

Total Percent at or above Proficient by New England State

Nation	27
Rhode Island	30
Connecticut	49
Maine	32
Massachusetts	44
Vermont	32

Total Percentage at or above Proficient by New England State 2002 NAEP Writing Assessment



**The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island
Grade 4 Percentage of students at or above *Proficient* in Writing by State**

Percentage of 4th Grade Students at or above *Proficient* in Rhode Island: 30%

States are statistically higher than Rhode Island	CT	49
	DE	35
	MA	44
	NY	37
States who are not statistically different from Rhode Island	FL	33
	IN	26
	IA	27
	KY	27
	ME	32
	MD	30
	MN	29
	NE	27
	NC	32
	OH	28
	PA	29
	TX	29
	VT	32
	VA	29
	WA	30
States are statistically lower percentage than Rhode Island	AL	15
	AR	19
	AZ	15
	CA	23
	DC	11
	GA	23
	HI	22
	ID	22
	KS	21
	LA	14
	MI	19
	MS	13
	MT	22
	MO	22
	NV	18
	NM	18
	ND	20
	OK	16
	OR	22
	SC	17
	TN	23
	UT	20
	WV	19
	WY	23

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 and 2002 Writing Assessments.

NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island Grade 4 Students at or above *Proficient* in Writing by State

Percentage of 8th Grade Students at or above *Proficient* in Rhode Island: 29%

States are statistically higher than Rhode Island	CT	45
	DE	35
	ME	36
	MD	35
	MA	42
	NC	34
	OH	38
	VT	41
States are not statistically different from Rhode Island	FL	32
	ID	29
	IN	26
	KS	32
	KY	25
	MT	29
	NE	32
	NY	30
	OK	27
	OR	33
	PA	32
	TX	31
	VA	32
	WY	28
States are statistically lower percentage than Rhode Island	AL	20
	AR	19
	AZ	20
	CA	23
	DC	10
	GA	25
	HI	18
	LA	18
	MS	13
	MI	24
	NM	18
	NV	16
	ND	24
	SC	20
	TN	24
	WV	21

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 and 2002 Writing Assessments.

NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for Rhode Island's Eighth Grade Students

- The Average Scale Score for eighth grade students in Rhode Island was 151 out of 300. This was higher than the Average Scale Score in (148) in 1998.
- Rhode Island's Average Score (151) was not found to be significantly different from that of the nation's public schools (152).
- Students' Average Scale Scores in Rhode Island were higher than those in 20 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 14, and lower than those in 12 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 29%. This percentage was greater than in 1998 (25).

Average Eighth Grade Scale Scores in the New England States

	'98	'02	Difference
Nation	148	152	+4
Rhode Island	148	151	+3
Connecticut	165	164	-1
Maine	155	157	+2
Massachusetts	155	163	+8
Vermont	-	163	-

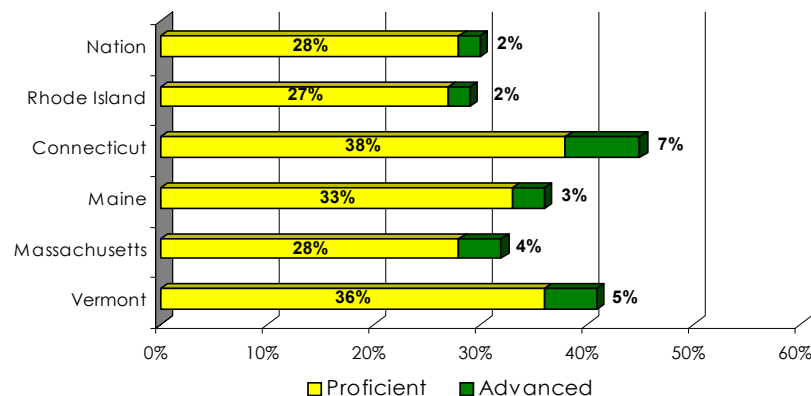
Notes:

- The number of Rhode Island schools that participated in the 2002 Writing assessment was 55.
- The number of eighth grade students assessed in Rhode Island was 2,608.
- All charts showing gaps between subgroups and/or New England states reflect the differences found in average scale scores.
- New Hampshire did not participate in the 1998 or 2002 NAEP assessment cycles so it is not reflected in any of the charts showing New England states' data.
- All bar charts showing percent of students at or above the NAEP *Proficient* Achievement Level are shown on a 0 – 60% scale.

Total Percent of Eighth Grade Students at or above Proficient in the New England States

	'98	'02	Difference
Nation	24	30	+6
Rhode Island	25	29	+4
Connecticut	44	45	+1
Maine	32	36	+4
Massachusetts	31	42	+11
Vermont	-	41	-

Total Percent of Eighth Grade Students at or above Proficient by New England State 2002 NAEP Writing Assessment



The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels¹ by Gender

	Average Score	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced	At or Above Basic	At or Above Proficient
Grade 4							
<i>Male</i>							
Rhode Island	150	15	63	21	1	85	22
Nation	144	22	60	17	1	80	18
<i>Female</i>							
Rhode Island	166	7	54	36	4	94	40
Nation	162	10	55	32	3	90	35
Grade 8							
<i>Male</i>							
Rhode Island	143	21	58	20	1	79	21
Nation	141	23	57	19	1	77	20
<i>Female</i>							
Rhode Island	160	10	52	34	3	89	37
Nation	162	9	51	37	3	91	40

Grade 4 Findings:

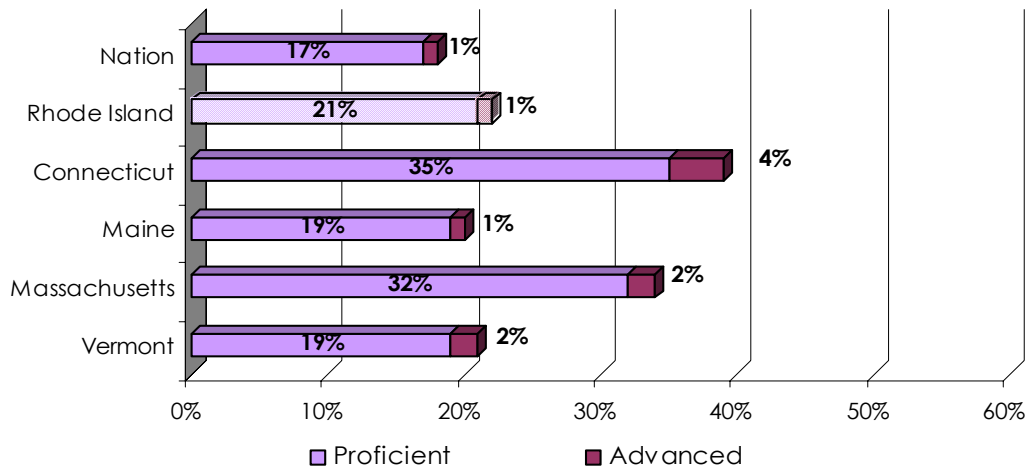
- The gap between the Average Scale Scores of boys and girls in grade 4 is 16 points. This gap carries over into the percent at or above *Basic* (9%) and at or above *Proficient* (15%).
- Rhode Island has a higher percentage of boys and girls at or above *Basic* and at or above *Proficient* than the Nation.
- There are 8% more boys than girls at the *Below Basic* level.

Grade 8 Findings:

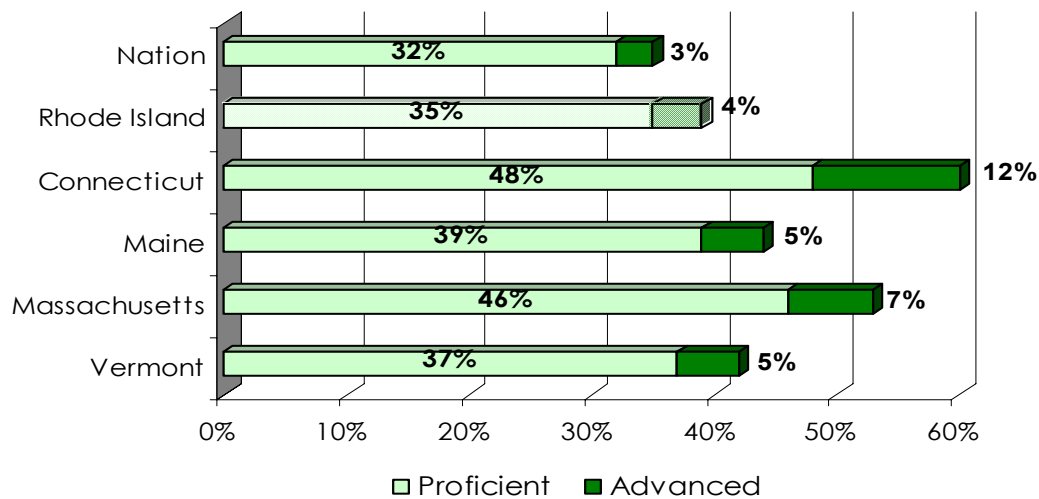
- The gap between boys and girls (160) is 17 Average Scale Score Points.
- Girls are still out-performing boys in the 8th grade in the at or above *Basic* and at or above *Proficient* Achievement Levels.
- There are 10% more girls than boys achieving at or above NAEP *Basic*.

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 and 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

**Percent of Male Fourth Grade Students
at or above Proficient in the New England States**

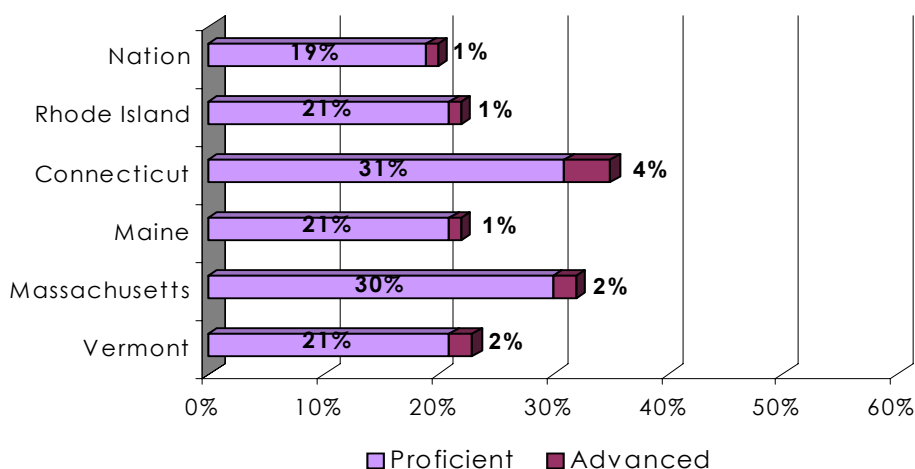


**Percent of Female Fourth Grade Students
at or above Proficient in the New England States**

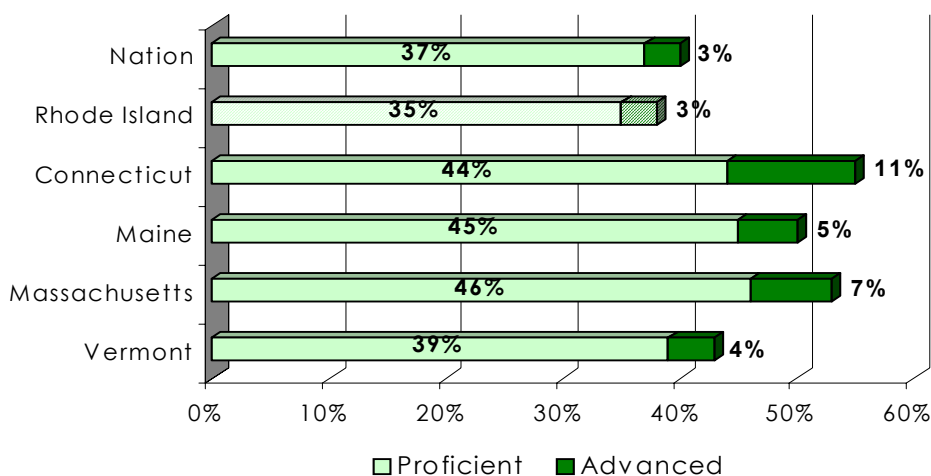


- In every New England state, there are more girls reaching the NAEP *Proficient* and *Advanced* levels than boys.
- 22% of boys in Rhode Island reached the *Proficient* and *Advanced* levels whereas 18% and 20% of boys reached those levels in the Nation and in Vermont.

**Percent of Male Eighth Grade Students
at or above Proficient in the New England States**



**Percent of Female Eighth Grade Students
at or above Proficient in the New England States**



Gaps in Average Scale Scores between Females and Males in the New England States

Grade 4	2002
Nation	18
Rhode Island	16
Connecticut	18
Maine	22
Massachusetts	16
Vermont	21

Grade 8	1998	2002
Nation	20	21
Rhode Island	19	18
Connecticut	19	20
Maine	26	26
Massachusetts	22	18
Vermont	-	24

Fourth and Eighth Grade Findings:

- In the eighth grade, girls still out perform boys on the NAEP writing assessment.
- There is no statistical difference between Rhode Island, Maine, and Massachusetts' percent of boys at or above *Proficient*.
- Rhode Island and Massachusetts have the smallest gap between fourth grade boys (16). However, this is not statistically different from the Nation or Connecticut.
- The gap between eighth grade boys and girls, from 1998 to 2002 has decreased by one scale score point.
- Rhode Island and Massachusetts have the smallest gaps between boys and girls among the New England states.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Grade 4 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels¹
for Free/Reduced-Price School Lunch

Grade 4 Findings:

- Rhode Island has more students eligible for free/reduced lunch (79%) at or above *Basic* than the nation (77%).
- Students eligible for free/reduced in Rhode Island have the same scale score as students at a national level. Students not eligible for free/reduced lunch in Rhode Island scored 6 scale score points higher than the nation.
- 43% percent of students not eligible for free/reduced lunch are at or above *Proficient* compared with 36% of students at the national level.

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Grade 8 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels¹
for Free/Reduced-Priced Lunch

	Average Score	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient
Grade 8							
<i>Eligible</i>							
2002	136	25	62	13	--	75	13
1998	131	22	61	10	0	71	10
<i>Not Eligible</i>							
2002	161	10	52	35	3	90	38
1998	155	12	58	29	2	88	31

Grade 8 Findings:

- The Average Scale Scores for both eligible and not eligible students has increased from 1998 to 2002.
- The percentage of eligible students at the *Below Basic* level has been reduced by 3% from 1998 to 2002.
- The gap in Average Scale Score between students eligible for free/reduced lunch and those who are not is 25 Scale Score points.
- The percentage of students eligible (75%) and not eligible (90%) is significantly larger than in 1998: 71% and 88%, respectively.

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 and 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Grade 4 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels² by Race/Ethnicity

	Average Score	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient
Grade 4							
White							
Rhode Island	164	8	55	34	3	92	37
Nation	159	10	58	29	3	90	32
Black							
Rhode Island	141	20	67	12	1	80	13
Nation	139	23	63	13	1	77	14
Hispanic							
Rhode Island	136	22	69	9	--	78	9
Nation	140	24	59	16	1	76	17
Asian/Pacific Islander							
Rhode Island	150	13	65	21	--	86	21
Nation	166	7	53	36	4	93	40
American Indian/ Alaska Native							
Rhode Island	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nation	138	25	60	14	1	75	15

Grade 4 Findings:

- White students are out performing the Black and Hispanic students in their Average Scale Score.
- Rhode Island has more White, Black, and Hispanic students at or above *Basic* than does the nation.
- The gap between White and Black students in Rhode Island 23 points. This is a smaller gap than both Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- The gap between White and Hispanic students (28) in Rhode Island is greater than the gap between White and Black students (23). This is nine points greater than the Nation's gap but five points smaller than Massachusetts' gap.

Gaps between Fourth Grade White and Black Students between New England States

Rhode Island	23
Nation	20
Connecticut	33
Maine	-
Massachusetts	24
Vermont	-

Gaps between Fourth Grade White and Hispanic Students between New England States

Rhode Island	28
Nation	19
Connecticut	28
Maine	-
Massachusetts	33
Vermont	-

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island³
Grade 8 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels⁴ by Race/Ethnicity

Grade 8

- Percent of White (7% points) and Hispanic students (4% points) *at or above Proficient* increased from 1998 to 2002.
- The percentage of Black students *at or above proficient* remained the same between 1998 and 2002: 10%.
- The gap between White and Black students has widened in all of the New England states from 1998 to 2002.
- The gap between White and Hispanic students has increased seven Scale Score points between 1998 and 2002.

Gaps between Eighth Grade White and Black Students between New England States

	1998	2002
Rhode Island	20	25
Nation	25	25
Connecticut	34	41
Maine	-	-
Massachusetts	26	32
Vermont	-	-

Gaps between Eighth Grade White and Hispanic Students between New England States

	1998	2002
Rhode Island	32	39
Nation	25	24
Connecticut	36	39
Maine	-	-
Massachusetts	38	39
Vermont	-	-

³ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 and 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Grade 4 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels¹
for Students with Disabilities

	Average Score	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient
Grade 4							
<i>Eligible</i>							
Rhode Island	128	34	58	8	0	66	8
Nation	121	44	50	6	0	56	6
<i>Not eligible</i>							
Rhode Island	163	7	59	31	3	93	34
Nation	156	12	59	27	2	88	29

Grade 4 Findings:

- Rhode Island has 10% more students who have disabilities at or above *Basic* than the Nation.
- In both the eligible and not eligible categories, Rhode Island has more students at or above *Basic* than the Nation.
- There are 27% more students in the below *Basic* Achievement Level who have disabilities than those who do not have disabilities.

	Average Score	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient
Grade 4			
<i>Eligible</i>			
Rhode Island	128	66	8
Nation	121	56	6
Connecticut	140	76	15
Maine	121	56	5
Massachusetts	139	79	11
Vermont	118	52	4
<i>Not eligible</i>			
Rhode Island	163	93	34
Nation	156	88	29
Connecticut	178	96	53
Maine	163	92	36
Massachusetts	174	97	49
Vermont	163	91	35

Findings:

- The gap between the Average Scale Scores of students who do and do not have disabilities is 35 scale points.
- There are 26% more students at or above *Proficient* in the “not eligible” category.
- The difference between the percentage of students at or above *Proficient* in both of the eligible and not eligible categories is very dramatic among the New England states and the Nation.
- For students eligible and not eligible, Rhode Island has more students at or above *Basic* and *Proficient* than Vermont and Maine.

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Grade 8 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels¹
for Students with Disabilities

	Average Score	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient
Grade 8							
<i>Eligible</i>							
Rhode Island	118	45	51	4	-	55	4
Nation	112	54	42	4	0	46	4
<i>Not eligible</i>							
Rhode Island	158	11	55	34	-	89	34
Nation	156	12	55	21	2	88	33

Grade 8 Findings:

- At the eighth grade level, Rhode Island does not have a statistically reliable number of students reaching the Advanced Achievement Level.
- Rhode Island out performs the Nation in both the Average Score and the percentage of students at or above the Basic Achievement Level for students do and do not have disabilities.
- There is a gap of 40 scale score points between students who have disabilities and students who do not.
- The majority of students (51%) are at the Basic Achievement Level. This is a 4 percentage point difference from those students not designated as having a disability.

Average Score			At or above Basic		At or above Proficient	
Grade 8						
Eligible	'98	'02	'98	'02	'98	'02
Rhode Island	111	118	49	55	2	4
Nation	109	112	42	46	2	4
Connecticut	132	126	68	62	13	13
Maine	117	118	54	54	5	6
Massachusetts	122	129	60	66	5	12
Vermont	-	127	-	63	-	9
Not eligible						
Rhode Island	152	158	87	89	28	34
Nation	151	156	87	88	26	33
Connecticut	168	170	93	90	47	49
Maine	158	164	89	92	35	41
Massachusetts	160	170	91	95	35	47
Vermont	-	169	-	93	-	46

Findings:

- The Average Scale Score in all New England states (with the exception of Connecticut) increased for those students having a disability from 1998 to 2002.
- For those students not having a disability, the Average Scale Scores increased but not as much as among those students with a disability.
- The increase in students having, and those not having, disabilities, was most dramatic in the change in the percentage of students reaching at or above Basic and Proficient.

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Grade 4 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels¹
for Limited English Proficient Students

	Average Score	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient
Grade 4							
<i>Eligible</i>							
Rhode Island	128	30	70	4	0	70	4
Nation	127	36	56	8	0	64	8
<i>Not eligible</i>							
Rhode Island	159	10	58	30	2	90	32
Nation	155	13	59	26	2	87	28

Grade 4 Findings:

- There are 28% more students achieving at or above *Proficient* who are not LEP.
- The gap in the Average Scale Score between LEP and non-LEP students is 31 points.
- While Rhode Island's LEP students' scale scores are comparable to the Nation, non-LEP students scored four points above the Nation.
- Rhode Island has 10% more LEP students at the Basic level than the Nation.

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

The Nation's Report Card 2002 State Assessment for Rhode Island¹
Grade 8 Average Writing Scale Scores and
Percentages of Students by Achievement Levels¹
for Limited English Proficient Students

		Average Score		Below Basic		At Basic		At Proficient		At Advanced		At or above Basic		At or above Proficient	
Grade 8															
<i>Eligible</i>		'98	'02	'98	'02	'98	'02	'98	'02	'98	'02	'98	'02	'98	'02
Rhode Island		102	106	63	56	36	43	1	1	-	-	37	44	1	1
Nation		107	115	59	49	35	45	2	6	-	0	37	51	2	6
<i>Not Eligible</i>															
Rhode Island		149	153	16	14	58	56	26	30	-	-	84	86	26	30
Nation		149	153	16	14	59	55	25	29	-	2	84	86	25	31

Grade 8 Findings:

- Between 1998 and 2002, the Average Score for LEP and non-LEP students increased four points.
- There was a 7% reduction in the number of LEP students in the Below Basic Achievement Level from 1998 to 2002.
- Compared to the Nation, Rhode Island has 5% fewer LEP students at or above the *Proficient* Achievement Level.
- There are fewer non-LEP students in the *Below Basic* and *Basic* Achievement Levels in 2002 than there were in 1998.
- There are more students in the *Proficient* and *Advanced* Achievement levels in 2002 than in 1998.

¹ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessments. NOTE: The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.